Archaeology and the Worker

By Jose Revueltas

Introduction

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I am glad we read about archaeology from Gordon V. Childe. I have lived reading Egyptology and such basic works on history. It just says history is a image passing by, and archaeology is how life is lived. It means as we argue back then, that in fact the free air of history is so nostalgic. I was feeling nostalgia with Shereen Ratnagar recently who is always working in Harappan centers these days. She is always sleepy and working on those setups. It is four thousand kilometers away in the hills of Indus Valley, and she is busy working on its history. She means her life is all about archaeology these days, it discovers a lot of steps and staircases recently. She is seen first sitting with workers and talking to them, and then she is at the site and collecting soil and more pots and figurines.

I. Material Archaeology – How the Excavation then Reveals the Past

In fact then to be in archaeological surveys in Mexico that I have visited, then teaches me the relevance of archaeology. As a discipline archaeology is about material excavations and small developments in a

long Harappa or even Mayan and Aztecian civiisation. In that world in fact people used to smoke and drink and talk a lot. In the modern capitalist system there is too much talking of contemporariness, in archaeology actually we live in the past.

II. The Worker Here Next to Me, Conversations with Workers who Dig this Aztec Site

In fact I am talking to workers here. Workers say they love working on this archaeological survey. They understand their history they say.